Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended):** An isolated amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 17 to 180 of SEQ ID NO: 2[[,]].

[[;]]

~~**wherein said sequence provides prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of an infection or its clinical signs caused by an organism of the family Babesiidae.**~~

2. (Previously presented): The sequence according to claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO 2.

3. (Withdrawn): The sequence according to claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO 4 or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

4. **(Currently amended):** **[[A]]** **An isolated** nucleic acid that encodes the sequence according to claim 1.

5. (Previously presented): The nucleic acid according to claim 4 comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (Withdrawn): The nucleic acid according to claim 4 comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

7. **(Currently amended):** **[[A]]** **An isolated** cDNA fragment comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 4.

8. (Previously presented): A recombinant DNA molecule comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 4, under the control of a functionally linked promoter.

9. (Previously presented): A live recombinant carrier comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 4.

10. (Previously presented): A host cell comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 4.

11. **(Currently amended):** A vaccine comprising
    i) ~~**the sequence according to claim 1;**~~ **an isolated amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 17 to 233 of SEQ ID NO:2,** and
    ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (Previously presented): The vaccine according to claim 11, further comprising an adjuvant.

13. (Previously presented): The vaccine according to claim 11, further comprising an additional immunoactive component or a nucleic acid encoding said additional immunoactive component.

14. (Previously presented): The vaccine according to claim 13, wherein said additional immunoactive component or nucleic acid encoding said additional immunoactive component is obtained from an organism selected from the group consisting of *Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia gibsoni, B. vogeli, B. rossi, Leishmania donovani*-complex, Canine parvovirus, Canine distempervirus, *Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola, Leptospira interrogans serovar icterohaemorrhagiae, Leptospira interrogans serovar pomona, Leptospira interrogans serovar grippotyphosa, Leptospira interrogans serovar bratislava,* Canine hepatitisvirus, Canine parainfluenzavirus, rabies virus, *Hepatozoon canis* and *Borrelia burgdorferi.*

15. (Previously presented): A vaccine comprising
    i) an antibody against the sequence according to claim 1, and
    ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Withdrawn): A method for the preparation of a vaccine comprising the admixing of
    i) the sequence according to claim 1, and
    ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. (Withdrawn): A method for the preparation of a vaccine comprising the admixing of
    i) an antibody against the sequence according to claim 1 and
    ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Withdrawn): A method of prophylasis or treatment of an infection or its clinical signs caused by an organism of the family Babesiidae, comprising administering a vaccine comprising the sequence according to claim 1.

19. (Previously presented): A diagnostic test for the detection of a nucleic acid associated with an organism of the family Babesiidae, comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
    (i) SEQ ID NO: 1;
    (ii) a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 at least 15 nucleotides long; and
    (iii) a nucleic acid that is complementary to (i) or (ii).

20. (Previously presented): A diagnostic test for the detection of antibodies against an organism of the family Babesiidae, comprising the sequence according to claim 1.

21. (Previously presented): A diagnostic test for the detection of antigenic material from an organism of the family Babesiidae, comprising an antibody against the sequence according to claim 1.